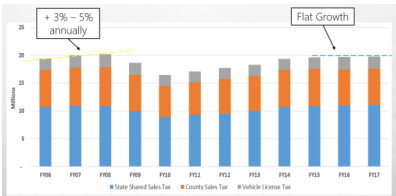




In this issue:

- BOS Members meet with State Legislature
- County Revenue Challenges: What You Need to Know
- Winter Storms Blanket the Region with Snow
- Hashknife Pony Express
- COOP



Revenue Challenges

Pending closure of the Navajo Generating Station:

- Would result in the likely closure of the Kayenta Mine, costing the region nearly 1,000 jobs and \$100 million in payroll

Pending closure of Cholla’s remaining generators:

- After closing just one unit at Cholla in 2015, the County saw a drop of \$30 million in property value, and \$206,000 in property tax collected
- When the other three units close, we expect to see a similar impact from each unit

Mandated changes to Court Security:

- Enhanced security protocols mandated by the State require new expenditures for building upgrades and security personnel
- Like other counties around AZ, Navajo County is looking for ways to create greater efficiency in our court system and precincts

Potential increase in cost for retirement plans:

- Navajo County faces large increases to some of the State Retirement Plans in the coming years

Potential loss of federal inmates:

- The County receives nearly \$1.3 million in revenue from housing federal inmates
- Although this is an important funding source, it is not guaranteed each year




Board Members Discuss Local Issues with State Legislature

In an effort to further educate the public and develop partnerships regarding the revenue challenges facing Navajo County, members of the Board of Supervisors have been meeting with representatives from the State Legislature to ensure our story is heard.

“We were able to sit down with members of our State Legislative delegation to discuss the revenue challenges facing Navajo County,” Chairman Jesse Thompson said. “It is crucial that our representatives at the state level, as well as members of the public, understand the unique economic challenges we are facing in Navajo County and our region.

Navajo County General Fund		Tax Rates	Est Tax Collected
Assessed Values			
	Primary	Secondary	
2010	1,059,004,850	1,116,355,302	0.55720
2011	1,026,137,125	1,040,412,117	0.59840
2012	974,292,390	978,263,926	0.64010
2013	903,351,854	904,776,433	0.69950
2014	845,018,236	846,247,083	0.81850
2015	832,770,173	843,018,904	0.84170
2016	803,062,466	841,423,700	0.84710



Drop in Revenues

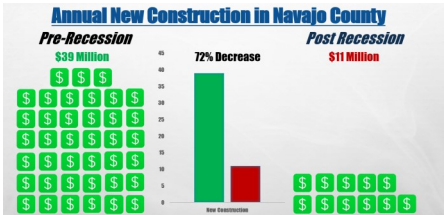


In the last three weeks, members of the Board have given multiple presentations regarding the economic challenges ahead for our region (please see list to the left). These presentations also showcase what steps county officials have already taken to address these issues and innovate the way services are provided.



“We continue to explore ways to find more innovative and cost-effective solutions for the delivery of statutorily mandated services to our citizens,” District III Supervisor Jason Whiting said. “Though our services may look different in their delivery as we move forward, we will continue to pursue partnerships across our region and strive for excellence in all we do as an organization.”

BOS members will continue to meet with State Legislature in order to find innovative solutions to the unique issues facing our region.



For more detailed information of the challenges facing Navajo County, please watch our January episode of [Navajo County Connection](#).



# NAVAJO COUNTY NEWS



## Winter Storms Blanket the Region with Snow

Over 30 inches of snow fell across Navajo County when three storms blew through the area back-to-back in late January.

At certain points, the snow was so heavy portions of U.S. Highway 60, State Route 260 and Interstate 40 were forced to close as a safety precaution.

Communities across the Navajo Nation, as well as Apache County, declared a State of Emergency during the storms.

Despite the severity of the storm, regional emergency services responded in a timely manner and few incidents were reported.

## Hashknife Pony Express



The 59th annual (and consecutive) Hashknife Pony Express delivery saw riders journey 200 miles from the Holbrook Post Office to the Old West Cultural History Museum in Scottsdale.

“This tradition is unique to our region, and celebrated by many communities along the route,” Navajo County Chairman of the Board Jesse Thompson said. “It’s an honor to have this event be part of our local identity, and I thank each of the riders for their service to the residents of Navajo County.”

The riders were sent off with a parade and dinner in Holbrook on Feb. 7th before being welcomed with a “High Noon” celebration upon their arrival in Scottsdale on Feb. 10th

“Since the first ride in 1958, the Navajo County Sheriff’s Office has been a proud partner of the event,” Sheriff KC Clark said. “The Hashknife crew is made up of Navajo County Sheriff’s Posse members, so we take great pride in it as a community and as an organization.”

To ensure their safety, riders received an escort from Holbrook and Navajo County law enforcement agencies.

### Employment Opportunities:

The Navajo County Sheriff’s Office is looking for a dedicated professional to join their team as a Deputy!

Get more info about and apply [here!](#)



## Emergency Management’s COOP Gets Approved

Navajo County Emergency Management has a new Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

The COOP, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is an effort within individual executive departments and agencies to ensure that primary functions continue to be performed during an emergency.

For Navajo County, this means if an incident occurred where the office required relocation, the COOP would provide an outline to make this process go smoothly.

“When an incident occurs that requires our office to relocate, every second counts,” Navajo County Emergency Management Director Mary Jane Springer said. “This helps us stay prepared and on task to take advantage of the limited time we have to set up operations.”

The Navajo County Board of Supervisors approved the updated COOP during their meeting on Jan. 24th.

### In Case of Emergency:



**Don’t Wait, Communicate!**